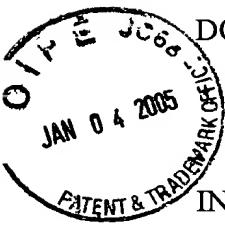


Application No. 09/851,159  
Reply Brief



DOCKET NO: 247472US55

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF

WALTER GOERENZ, ET AL. : EXAMINER: ROSSI, J.

SERIAL NO: 09/851,159 :

FILED: MAY 9, 2001 : GROUP ART UNIT: 1733

FOR: LAMINATED GLAZING UNIT  
AND A PROCESS FOR  
MANUFACTURING THEREOF WITH A  
CORROSION-PROTECTED  
TRANSPARENT SURFACE COATING

REPLY BRIEF

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
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SIR:

This is a reply to the comments made by the Examiner in her Answer dated November 9, 2004 concerning the above-identified application:

Appellants note that the Examiner has stated at page 7, lines 5-7 of her Answer that the Winter et al patent is “silent as to the ceramic layer being a protective layer, the ceramic layer being opaque, the ceramic layer being impermeable to diffusion of water vapor, and removing the transparent coating to create an exposed region between about 0.1-5 mm.” In stating these remarks, the Examiner has practically acknowledged that all of the limitations of present Claim 1 are not shown or suggested by Winter et al!

As is clear from present Claim 1, the present invention is directed to a process of manufacturing a laminated glazing unit having at least two panes wherein the objective as stated in the present specification on page 2 is to provide a laminated glazing with a corrosion protected transparent surface coating. As is clear from the present claims, the process involves removing the transparent surface coating on a pane, which can be an electrically conducting material such as a Ag antireflection layer, specifically from at least one edge of the pane from 0.1 up to 5 mm inward from the edge of the pane, thereby exposing the surface of the coated pane along its periphery inwardly at least 0.1 mm up to 5 mm along the edge of the pane. Thereafter, as clearly shown in Fig 1 of the present application, an opaque coating 6, which can be electrically conducting, is selectively applied to the edge of the pane so that it completely covers at least a portion of the exposed surface at the edge of the pane and extends over onto the transparent coating beyond the exposed edge of the pane. Thus, it is abundantly clear that the steps performed in the present process as claimed provide the laminated glazing product with an edge seal that prevents corrosion along the protected edge. Of course, the completed product is obtained by bonding the edge protected pane with a remaining pane by an intervening, transparent adhesive layer such as of PVB.

The Examiner appears to contend in her comments in the paragraph bridging pages 7 and 8 of the Answer that somehow the so-called alternative form of the antenna configuration shown in Fig 4 of the Winter et al patent in which connector 224 is positioned along the surface 214 of the outer ply 216 so as to establish direct electrical contact with coating 212, provides the skilled artisan to reach the present invention. Appellants simply do not agree that one of skill in the art would be so motivated by the patent disclosure. In the first place, the entire disclosure of the reference is directed to the provision of a single glass ply or a laminate of glass plies, not with a means of edge protection, but with an antenna system. As such, and as illustrated in Fig 2 of the patent, connector 124 is a relatively small piece of

adhered electrically conductive material (identified as a "patch" in the patent) which is in electrical connection with the remainder of the antenna system that is installed on a glass pane. In the alternative embodiment to the system shown in Fig 4, a connector 224, in contact with layer 212, would only have to be a relatively small piece of material that is of a size sufficient to make adequate connection with the antenna system. (It is not evident at all how a small piece of connector material, otherwise identified as a patch of material, could be viewed as equivalent in function to the opaque protective layer of the present claims which is integral to providing a laminated product that is sealed from the environment at least along an edge of the laminate.) There is absolutely no disclosure in the patent that the so-called alternative feature is in any way similar to the edge protection of a laminated glass ply that is provided by the process of the present invention. In fact, it is clear from the diagram of Fig 4 that where the figure of the patent shows the actual edge region of the two ply laminate, the only material between the two glass plies is the adhesive PVB. There is nothing in the disclosure of the patent that teaches or suggests anything other than that an adhesive such as PVB functions not only to bond the glass plies together, but also provides the only seal between the glass plies along the periphery of the laminate. Such a configuration, however, is unsatisfactory as a means of sealing the periphery of a laminate against corrosion by weathering as discussed on pages 1 and 2 of the present specification.

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Appellants remain of the opinion that the continuing rejection of the claims of the present application is erroneous and that the rejection of the claims by the Examiner should be REVERSED.

Respectfully submitted,

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